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THE GOOD GUYS™

STEPPIN' OUT!

JANUARY 8, 1994. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. THE HOME OF DAN NEALE AND HIS DAUGHTER, LAURA...

SEE, DAD-- A PIECE A CAKE. AND THERE'S MORE LIKE ME -- SEVEN OF US ALTOGETHER. ALL KIDS -- EXCEPT MAYBE ME, I'M THE ***OLDEST*** -- AND EACH OF US CAN DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT!

AMAZING!

I KNOW IT'S KIND OF HARD TO SWALLOW. IT ALL HAPPENED AT ONCE-- AT THAT COMIC STORE. I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT WE SOMEHOW ALL GOT OUR WISHES FULFILLED.

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WELL, SEEING IS BELIEVING, I GUESS....

SPEAKING OF COMIC STORES, I'D BETTER GET OVER TO MINE AND CLOSE UP. BUT, LAURA...

...I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF ALL THIS. I MEAN, NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS HAPPENED SINCE "THE MILLIONAIRE" WAS ON TV.

THE MILLIONAIRE?

BEFORE YOUR TIME. ANYWAY, I DON'T WANT YOU GOING OUTSIDE OR DOING ANYTHING UNTIL WE'VE HAD A CHANCE TO SIT DOWN TO TALK THIS OVER.

SO, STAY PUT UNTIL I GET BACK.

AW, DAD...!

CLICK

I HATE TO DISOBEY, DAD...

...BUT YOUR DAUGHTER HAS GROWN UP. AND I'M STEPPIN' OUT TO MEET MY NEW FRIENDS.

MEANWHILE...

HELLO, LAURA.

...

THIS IS DANIEL JACOB. LOOK, I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO OUT ON A DATE WITH ME -- MAYBE SHARE A BREATHTAKING SUNSET OVER THE PACIFIC, OR TAKE IN A MOVIE, IF THAT SUITS YOU.

NO. THAT STINKS. HOW ABOUT... HI, LAURA! DANIEL HERE! HEY, LET'S DO LUNCH!

NAH. SHE'D SAY NO. I'D BETTER BE COOL AND JUST OFFER HER A RIDE TO THE MEETING.

HMMM. NO ANSWER. SHE MUST HAVE ALREADY LEFT. LET ME GET THE REST OF THE PICTURES I TOOK LAST WEEK...

... AND HEAD OUT MYSELF.

MAN, I CAN'T *WAIT* TO SEE HER!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN YET ANOTHER PART OF LOS ANGELES...

HEY, THESE COALS ARE STILL HOT. REGGIE, CHECK THIS OUT.

ONE HANDFUL OF HOT BARBECUE COALS COMING UP.

BIG DEAL. THOSE THINGS ARE FLOATING ABOVE YOUR HAND.

NO THEY'RE NOT. IT'S THE *ARMOR*. IT'S TRANSPARENT-- SOMETIMES YOU CAN HARDLY SEE IT-- BUT NOTHING CAN TOUCH ME WHEN THIS BABY IS ON.

NO, I DON'T LIKE IT IN THERE.

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU TEST YOUR POWERS AT ALL SINCE WE FIRST GOT THEM. COME ON, LET'S SEE YOU TURN INVISIBLE.

"IN THERE"? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I GO SOMEWHERE, PAUL. A PLACE I DON'T LIKE.

ELSEWHERE...

MOMMY, I THINK I'LL SACK OUT EARLY. I'M TIRED.

YOU SURE YOU'RE FEELING OKAY, JENNI?

NO *PRO-BLAY-MO*, MOMMY. NIGHT.

YES, GOOD NIGHT, MOMMY AND DADDY. JENNI LEE IS NO MORE....

"...NOW THERE'S ONLY WHITE CRANE."

AND, IN THE SAHS' HOUSEHOLD...

HEY, DORK. THE NOISE FROM THAT DUMB GAME IS DRUMMING IN MY EARS.

DID YOU HEAR THERE'S A WILD ANIMAL LOOSE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

WOW! REALLY? I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT THAT. WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL?

THIS KIND, GEEK-- SKRAG!

WAY COOL!

BUT SPELLCASTER CATCHES SKRAG WITH A MAGIC BOLT, HALTING HIM IN MID-LEAP...

...AND DUMPS HIM ON THE GROUND!

AARGH!

MATT! MATT, I'M SORRY. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YEAH. IT'S NOTHING. HOPE MOM DIDN'T HEAR THAT. COME ON, IT'S TIME. WE GOTTA GO.

MATT, MOM IS GOING TO HAVE A CARDIAC IF SHE CATCHES US SNEAKING OUT.

SHE'LL NEVER KNOW. NOW, HUSTLE IT UP, SPAZ, OR WE'LL BE LATE.

SOON...

ARE THOSE VEGETARIAN HOT DOGS, BY ANY CHANCE?

TOFU HE

LAURA'S LATE. I HOPE SHE'S ALL RIGHT.

EVERYTHING'S "LAURA" WITH YOU. WHAT, DO YOU HAVE A TWITCH FOR HER OR SOMETHING?

WHAT'S A TWITCH?

I FORGOT, YOU'RE FROM MONTANA.

I THINK HE MEANS YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON HER, DANIEL.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN LUCK, DANNY-BOY.

HERE COMES **MUSCLES.**

SORRY I'M LATE, DUDES AND DUDETTE. I RAN AND JUMPED ALL THE WAY. I'M NOT EVEN WINDED. KEEP AWAY, THOUGH. I'M SWEATY AND GRUNGY.

YOU'RE NOT GRUNGY. HERE, WANT TO LOOK AT THE PICTURES I TOOK LAST TIME WE GOT TOGETHER?

THEY'RE ALL PICTURES OF **LAURA.** WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS LOVEY-DOVEY STUFF.

HE'S RIGHT. WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT NOW. WE'VE GOT PRESSING MATTERS TO GO OVER.

OH.

YEAH, LIKE COMING UP WITH A NAME.

LOOK, I'M GOING TO GET A SODA. I'LL SEE YOU GUYS LATER. ANYBODY WANT ANYTHING?

NO, THANKS.

WE NEED A NAME FOR OUR GROUP? HOW ABOUT **THE AVENGERS?**

COOL!

HOW ABOUT THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE?*

TOO BAD WE'RE NOT MUTANTS. WE'D HAVE A HUNDRED NAMES TO CHOOSE FROM.

THE *FANTASTIC SEVEN* MAYBE? OR THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* PLUS THREE?

THE N

WE CAN'T USE THOSE NAMES 'CAUSE OF COPYRIGHT LAWS. WE HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING *ORIGINAL*.

WHO CARES ABOUT COPYRIGHT LAWS?

WE DO! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE *THE GOOD GUYS*, REMEMBER?

HEY, *LOOK*, GUYS!

THIS IS IT! MONSTERS WERE SIGHTED IN NEW JERSEY! THEY PRACTICALLY DESTROYED SOME INDUSTRIAL SITES.

OH, WOW! WE GOTTA GO THERE NOW AND FIGHT 'EM!

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.

HELLO? ANYBODY *HOME?* WE'RE TALKING *NATIONAL ENQUIRER*, ARE WE NOT? ONLY NUMBSKULLS READ THIS.

CHECK THIS.

"PRESIDENT CLINTON HOLDS SECRET SUMMIT MEETING WITH J.F.K." "ELVIS GIVES SPEECH AT SCRANTON ROTARY CLUB." REALLY CREDIBLE NEWS SOURCE YOU'VE GOT HERE, PAUL.

LOOK, THERE'S ENOUGH TO DO RIGHT HERE IN L.A. LET'S PATROL THE CITY AND SEE WHAT WE CAN UNCOVER.

GOOD IDEA.

LET'S DO IT!

WE HAVE TO DO THIS RIGHT. ZACK -- I MEAN **SPELLCASTER** -- THE COSTUMES!

HOW DO YOU **DO** MAGIC, ZACK? IS IT A MAGIC WORD, OR DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE A RHYME?

NO, I JUST PICTURE STUFF IN MY MIND AND THINK ABOUT IT REAL HARD...

... AND I GET THIS TINGLE THAT SORT OF BUILDS UP AND THEN...

... ZAPPO!

I FEEL SORT OF **WEIRD** WEARING THIS STUFF... DON'T YOU, LAURA?

NOPE. IT'S **FUN**, DAN! GET **WITH** IT!

C'MON. WE HAVE TO USE OUR **CODE NAMES** NOW. HE'S **RECON**.

YEAH. IF WE DO THIS RIGHT, IT'LL BE COOL, LIKE THE **X-MEN**. IF WE **DON'T**...

...MAN, WILL IT BE DORKY!

YEAH.

SOON, AT A RADIO SHACK, NOT FAR AWAY...

FIVE OR SIX MORE.

'S'BOUT ALL WE CAN FIT.

WOW! A REAL ROBBERY! RECON WAS RIGHT!

MAN, DOES HE HAVE GOOD EYES, OR WHAT?

THIS WAY! MATT AND JENNI-- I MEAN SKRAG AND WHITE CRANE-- ARE ALREADY THERE.

LET'S GO!

YEAH! WE HARDLY EVER FIND ANY BAD GUYS!

EXCUSE ME, MISTER. HOW COME YOU'RE TAKING STUFF OUT OF A STORE THAT'S CLOSED?

HUH?

I WORK HERE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE? BEAT IT!

NO WAY! YOU'RE A ROBBER, AND SKRAG'S GOING TO TAKE YOU DOWN!

LITTLE SH-- HEY!

MISSED ME! OW-- MY RIBS!

UGH!

STAY DOWN, SKRAG. WHITE CRANE'LL TAKE HIM!

I DON'T NEED ANY HELP--HE MISSED ME! I JUST HURT MY RIBS BEFORE, THAT'S ALL!

CRA--ANE! JEEZ!

DID YOU SEE THAT? A FULL-GROWN BIG GUY, AND I CLOBBERED HIM! JUST LIKE SPIDER-MAN OR DAREDEVIL, OR--

HE WAS MINE! HEY, HE'S STILL MOVING, LAME-O.

I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT HIM TOO MUCH.

IT REALLY BOTHERS YOU THAT I'M AS STRONG AND AS FAST AND AS AGILE AS YOU ARE, DOESN'T IT?

EAT MY SHORTS.

WHAT TOOK YOU GUYS?

S'GET OUT OF HERE.

HEY! THEY DUCKED INSIDE.

THEY CAN'T HIDE FROM US IN THERE!

CAREFUL, FLEX. THAT'S A STRONG DOOR!

WHOA. LAURA, YOU'RE BRINGING THE WHOLE BUILDING DOWN!

THAT'S FLEX!

HEY, HE'S RIGHT! LOOK OUT!

UH-OH...

I GOT IT!

WAY TO GO, FRONT!

YEAH! ARMORED UP, I'M INVINCIBLE!

ONCE I LOCK INTO POSITION, MAN, I'M SOLID.

HOLD IT UP! I'M GOING IN!

HEY, GUYS, THEY'RE COMING OUT THE FRONT DOOR!

WHAT'S WITH THOSE KIDS?

LITTLE ROBOCOPS. LET'S SPLIT. THE ROOF'S GONNA COLLAPSE ANY MINUTE.

OH, GEEZ, LAURA'S STILL IN THERE!

WHERE'D THEY GO?

LAURA! ARE YOU OKAY?

YES, I'M *FINE*. WHICH WAY DID THEY *GO*?

I... I DON'T KNOW. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT *YOU*.

ARE YOU *CRAZY*?! WHERE DO YOU GET OFF WORRYING ABOUT *ME*? JUST DO YOUR *JOB*, OKAY?

DON'T JUST *STAND* THERE! GO *FIND* THEM!

BUT... I...

CRIPES, RECON! I PRACTICALLY DESTROY THE STORE CHASING THEM, AND *YOU* LET THEM GET AWAY!

I PROBABLY DID A *ZILLION DOLLARS* WORTH OF DAMAGE. AT *LEAST* WE GOTTA CATCH THEM... OR I'M GOING TO FEEL LIKE A REAL MORON! *GO* ALREADY!

ALL *RIGHT*. I'LL... I'LL TRY.

WHAT AM I *DOING*? I *HATE* THIS. AND LAURA HATES ME.

THOSE GUYS ARE LONG GONE.

I SHOULD JUST GO HOME.

HEY, WHAT'S THAT? LOOKS LIKE *EXPLOSIONS*-- OR A *FIRE*.

WOW! I'D BETTER GET THE OTHERS!

SOON...

GET A LOAD OF THAT!

TOTALLY AWESOME! FIRE COMING OUT OF HIS HANDS!

HEY, WHO ARE YOU?

WHO AM I?! WHO ARE YOU?

WE'RE THE AVENGERS!

NO, WE'RE NOT!

WHATEVER. WE'RE GOOD GUYS. THE NAME DOESN'T MATTER.

HEY, HOW DO YOU DO THOSE BLASTS WITH YOUR HANDS?

I WONDER IF HE WAS AT THE COMIC BOOK STORE THAT DAY?

WE'RE HEROES... WITH POWERS, TOO! YOU COULD JOIN US!

SLOW DOWN A MINUTE! WE HAVE TO CHECK HIM OUT FIRST.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT NOW. IT'S GETTING LATE. I'D BETTER BE GETTING HOME SOON.

HOW 'BOUT WE JUST TAKE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER AND HOOK UP LATER?

"WE HAVE TO CHECK HIM OUT FIRST." GIVE ME A BREAK! I SHOULDN'T HAVE EVEN GIVEN THEM MY NUMBER. I DON'T NEED THEM.

HUH. I WONDER IF THEY WERE AT THE COMICS STORE, TOO....

THE FOLLOWING DAY...

WELCOME TO THE **MONTEL WILLIAMS SHOW.** TODAY MY TOPIC IS-- AND BEAR WITH ME ON THIS-- MONSTERS IN THE SWAMPS OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY.

NOW, LIEUTENANT, MOST OF MY AUDIENCE IS GOING TO HAVE THE SAME INITIAL REACTION TO THIS AS I DID-- **YOU'RE CRAZY!** BUT SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY **DID** HAPPEN IN ELIZABETH. TELL OUR AUDIENCE ABOUT IT.

MOM, IS THIS STUFF FOR **REAL?**

WHO KNOWS, PAUL.

AN HOUR LATER...

I **KNEW** IT WAS TRUE! GOTTA CALL THE OTHERS.

LATER THAT DAY...

I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IN MONSTERS, FRONT. BUT, THEN AGAIN, WHO WOULD BELIEVE A STORY ABOUT **US?!**

WHAT'VE WE GOT TO LOSE BY CHECKING IT OUT?

I BELIEVE IT!

LOOK AT THOSE BOZOS.

ARE THEY FILMING AN M.C. HAMMER VIDEO HERE, OR WHAT?!

IF WE'RE ALL GAME, LET'S DO IT! ZACK, CAN YOU GET US THERE IN ONE PIECE?

ONE MAGIC DOORWAY TO THE MONSTERS COMING UP.

I STILL GET THE **WILLIES** EVERY TIME HE DOES THIS. HOPE THIS TRIP ISN'T AS WILD AS THE **LAST** ONE.

WHOA!

NEAR NEW YORK CITY'S GRAND CENTRAL STATION...

DO YOU HEAR THAT RUMBLING NOISE?

I GUESS IT'S THE **SUBWAY**...

"...BUT IT DOESN'T **SOUND** LIKE A TRAIN TO ME."

GET OFF ME!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE OFFICE OF CHARLES MAL...

SHE LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE OLD LADY, BUT SHE'S POUNDING THE **CRAP** OUT OF THE... YOU KNOW, **THINGS**.

HOW CAN ANYONE BE SO **STRONG**? AH, WELL... IF SHE REACHES OUR UNDERGROUND SHOP, THE **BIG** ONES WILL STOP HER.

UH... SPEAKING OF THE **BIG** ONES... THE **BIGGEST** HAS GOTTEN LOOSE. ALL THE FIGHTING DOWN THERE MUST'VE CRACKED ITS CAGE OR SOMETHING.

IT'S **LOOSE**?

THAT... IS A PROBLEM. THAT IS A **MAJOR** PROBLEM.

WHAT'LL WE **DO**, MISTER MAL?

I... DON'T KNOW.

ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY...

THERE'S **GOTTA** BE A SAFER WAY TO TRAVEL! GOING THROUGH SPELLCASTER'S **DOORS** IS LIKE BEING IN A VIDEO GAME...

...EXCEPT **WE** DON'T GET EXTRA LIVES!

WHITE CRANE, YOU OKAY?

I'M OKAY.

I *TRIED* TO WARN HER. THAT THING *REALLY* SLAMMED HER IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD!

WE COULD HAVE GOTTEN *KILLED* BACK THERE-- EXCEPT FOR MISTER I-CAN-WALK-ON-AIR-BUT-WON'T-DIRTY-MY-HANDS.

SKRAG'S RIGHT, RECON. YOU DIDN'T EVEN LIFT A *HAND* TO HELP.

LOOK, I'M NOT INTO THIS *FIGHTING* THING.

YEAH, WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR IDEA OF BEING A HERO IS, BUT IT CERTAINLY ISN'T MINE.

HEY, IS THIS NEW JERSEY?

NO, I WAS HERE ONCE WITH MY FOLKS. IT'S NEW YORK CITY. THAT'S WHY NOBODY'S STARING AT US WITH THESE OUTFITS. WEIRD IS NORMAL HERE.

SPELLCASTER, YOU COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN US ANY CLOSER TO JERSEY THAN THIS?

YEAH. RIGHT. THIS IS *STUPID.*

WHAT'S *WITH* HIM? IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE A SUPERHERO, WHY IS HE HERE?

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THE DOORS DON'T *WORK* THAT WAY. THEY JUST GET YOU *CLOSE*. THE MONSTERS *MUST* BE AROUND HERE.

OKAY, RECON, SINCE YOU WON'T HELP OUT ANY *OTHER* WAY, WHY DON'T YOU SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE MONSTERS!

GREG'S GROCERY

OOP.

GOD, I FEEL LIKE A SKEEZE. I HOPE THOSE PEOPLE DIDN'T SEE ME!

SEE ANYTHING, RECON?
MORE THAN I WANT TO SEE. TOO MUCH VIOLENCE, AND... WELL, NEVER MIND.
LOOK, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS MONSTERS, OKAY? THIS SUPER HERO CRAP IS A KIDS' GAME, AND I DON'T WANT TO PLAY. I'M NOT A KID.

I DON'T KNOW WHY I WENT ALONG WITH THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
BUT, RECON! YOU CAN'T ARGUE THAT WE GOT THESE POWERS. WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING GOOD WITH THEM!
Y' KNOW, WITH GREAT POWER COMES RESPONSIBILITY....

RECON, HONESTLY, I DON'T BELIEVE IN MONSTERS EITHER, BUT WE HAVE TO CHECK IT OUT, BECAUSE, IF BY SOME WILD CHANCE THERE ARE MONSTERS, WHO ELSE BUT WE COULD DEAL WITH THEM?

I KEEP THINKING THERE MUST BE A REASON WHY WE GOT THESE POWERS. MAYBE THIS IS IT.

OR MAYBE I'M SUPPOSED TO RESCUE LOST HIKERS IN THE MOUNTAINS BACK IN MONTANA. THIS IS STILL STUPID.

I PRACTICALLY HAD HIM CONVINCED! WHY'D YOU HAVE TO BUTT IN?

WHO DIED AND LEFT YOU BOSS?

HOLD IT, HOLD IT!

RECON, WE'VE COME ALL THIS WAY... PLEASE LOOK AROUND AGAIN, BEFORE WE JUST BAG IT.

WELL... OKAY, LAURA. IF YOU WANT ME TO....

MINUTES LATER...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS. I CAN FLY... I CAN SEE LIKE AN EAGLE, AND HEAR EVERY LITTLE SOUND...

...AND I'M HUNTING FOR SWAMP MONSTERS.

FOR LAURA. ONLY FOR LAURA.

AND THIS IS THE LAST TIME. EVEN FOR HER.

SUPER HEROES, SWAMP MONSTERS... STU...

...PID?

WHOA.

OH, MY GOD.

OH, MY GOD.

SOON...

THIS IS *GREAT!* LET'S GO!

IF I WASN'T SEEING THIS WITH MY OWN EYES, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT.

WATCH IT! IT *SEES* US! IT'S GETTING UP!

AS SOON AS I HIT THE GROUND, SPELLCASTER, YOU HOP OFF.

NICE HIT, FLEX! I'LL--WHOA! THAT COLUMN'S GIVING. GET BACK!

OH, NO! THE WHOLE *HIGHWAY'S* CAVING IN.

FLEX! LOOK OUT! THE MONSTER'S GOING FOR YOU!

LAURA...!

DROP SOMETHING ON IT... LIKE A BOMBER. YEAH!

AND I SEE JUST THE THING.

UHH!

THINK I BROKE MY WRISTS...

THERE... NEUTRAL...

... AND GIVE IT A SHOVE.

ARRRRR!

KEEP IT AWAY FROM FLEX!

GO FOR ITS **EYES!** EVEN IF WE CAN'T HURT IT, SKRAG, WE CAN DISTRACT IT!

LET'S SEE YA' EAT DIRT AND TRASH.

I'LL **ARMOR UP** AND HIT HIM LOW.

HEY, NOBODY! HOW'D YOU GET UP ***HERE?***

DON'T KNOW. JUMP REAL GOOD WHEN I'M INVISIBLE.

LOOK AT HIM WATCHING ME FADE IN AND OUT!

OOH! NICE KICK, SKRAG! HE FELT ***THAT!***

NOTHING GETS THROUGH THIS ARMOR, PAL-- ***NOTHING!***

MA-ATT! I MEAN ***SKRAG!*** OUTTA THE WAY-- YOU'RE BLOCKIN' MY SHOT.

HEY, WHAT ARE **YOU** PEOPLE DOING HERE?!

WE ***LIVE*** HERE... UNDER THE ROAD!

WHAT'S GOING ***ON*** ? WE'RE GONNA GET ***KILLED!***

YEOW! WATCH OUT FOR THOSE CLAWS!

LOOK OUT, SPELLCASTER!

UMPH! OW!

NO GOOD. WE NEED FLEX'S STRENGTH!

IT'S TURNING MY WAY. BUT I CAN'T LET THIS SUPPORT GO. THOSE PEOPLE BEHIND ME WILL BE CRUSHED TO DEATH. OH, MAN!

GOTTA DO SOMETHING, BUT WHAT?! WHAT CAN I DO?

GOOD. IT'S COMING AFTER *ME* NOW! I CAN LEAD IT AWAY....

NO. NO, I *WON'T.*

MAYBE THIS *IS* THE REASON WE'RE HERE.

GRRRAHH!

ALL RIGHT... ALL *RIGHT!*

LOOK OUT! I...I CAN'T *HOLD* THIS ANYMORE!

YES, YOU *CAN!* HOLD *ON,* YOUNG LADY!

EVERYBODY *RUN!* FORGET YOUR BELONGINGS! I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME WE CAN BUY!

THIRTY SECONDS LATER...

BBBRRGGHMMM

BOY, THE WHOLE THING JUST COLLAPSED!

YES, BUT MOST OF THE PEOPLE GOT OUT, AND WE SHIELDED THE REST. LET'S GET RID OF THESE SLABS, SHALL WE?

HOW COME YOU'RE SO ***STRONG***?

IT'S A LONG STORY, DEAR, BUT I WAS ***GENETICALLY REENGINEERED***... BY THE SAME TYPE OF PEOPLE WHO CREATED THAT BIG CREATURE... AND SOME OTHER ONES.

I JUST FINISHED PUTTING A STOP TO THAT.

I'M MRS. JOHNSON. WHAT'S YOUR NAME, DEAR?

UM... FLEX. I MEAN, THE KIDS CALL ME THAT.

HOW IS IT THAT YOU KIDS CAN DO SUCH AMAZING THINGS?

WELL... WE'RE NOT SURE. IT'S LIKE... OUR ***WISHES*** CAME TRUE ONE DAY.

HEY, THANKS, RECON! YOU WERE ***WONDERFUL***! YOU SAVED MY LIFE.

OH, UH... NO PROBLEM

NO, THERE'S A ***BIG*** PROBLEM.

YOU KIDS HAVE CAUSED A ***LOT*** OF DAMAGE, AND PEOPLE COULD HAVE GOTTEN KILLED!

YEAH, I GOT CARRIED AWAY. I KEEP ***DOING*** THAT. SORRY.

WE'RE JUST TRYING TO BE GOOD GUYS!

I'M SURE YOU ARE, DEAR, BUT WE HAVE TO HAVE A **LONG** TALK. I'VE GOT TO TIE UP A FEW LOOSE ENDS FIRST. YOU STAY **RIGHT HERE,** OKAY?

YES. THEY **DO** THAT. NOW, DON'T YOU MOVE AN INCH.

WOW. I THINK SHE'S P.O. 'ED.

HEY, LADY--LOOK! THE MONSTER MELTED.

MEANWHILE, AT THE NEALE HOME IN LOS ANGELES...

NOT LIKE LAURA...NO CALL, NO NOTE...

HMM...A NUMBER...

HELLO? **JEFF MILLER?** I'M DAN NEALE. I'M...LOOKING FOR MY DAUGHTER, LAURA....

...REAL MUSCULAR, LIKE A BODYBUILDER? YEAH, I SAW HER... WITH SOME OTHER KIDS.

WELL...I GUESS I COULD SHOW YOU WHERE. SURE, WHY NOT? YEAH, I CAN GO OUT, I DON'T HAVE TO ASK THEM. YEAH. SEE YA.

I HOPE LAURA ISN'T IN ANY TROUBLE...

...BUT IF YOU ARE, SWEETHEART... I'M GOING TO **FIND** YOU...

...AND WHATEVER IT IS, WE'LL FACE IT **TOGETHER!**

I BET SHE'LL BE SURPRISED THAT OLD DAD HAD HIS WISHES, TOO.

NEXT: *A GLIMMER OF HOPE!*

Ed Polgardy
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Nor till the poets among us can be
"literalists of
the imagination"—above
insolence and triviality and can present

for inspection, "imaginary gardens with real
toads in them," shall we have
it.

—Marianne Moore

I used to dream about becoming a Good Guy. I actually had a mask and a "costume," and so did my best friend, Jack McGinley. One summer night when we were twelve years old, we got dressed in our superhero garb and headed out into our neighborhood armed with slingshots and a can of Mace. We were determined to keep our community safe.

Spotting an unfamiliar, shadowy figure, who appeared to be breaking into the home of one of our friends, we quickly rendered him helpless by showering him with the tear-inducing, chemical spray.

We were thrilled at how easy it was to keep him from entering our friend's house—that is, until the porch light went on, and we discovered he was our friend's *father*, returning home late from work!

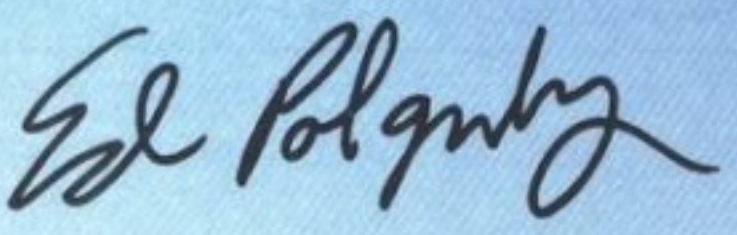
Luckily, no one realized who we were, and we were able to retire from the superhero biz without anyone discovering our secret identities or our embarrassing mistake.

But imagine if real kids had *real* superpowers. How would *they* use them? Hopefully not like Jack and I used *our* "powers," or people might get seriously hurt. (If we had had superenhanced strength or razor-sharp claws and not just slingshots and Mace, we might have accidentally *killed* that poor man!)

In each issue of *THE GOOD GUYS*, we'll see how a group of superpowered kids deal with *their* superabilities. Will they make sensible use of their enhancements? Will they use them for "the greater good"—or apply them to their own personal agendas, whether benign or sinister? If the former, how would they carry out a project? If they decided to put an end to substance abuse in this country, for instance, what would happen? Would they come up with a simplistic solution—like stopping the outflow of drugs at their source—and end up annihilating a drug-producing country like Columbia in the process? Or what if they wanted to stop terrorism? Would they decide the most expedient course to be wiping out the entire Middle East?

Whatever entanglements the kids find themselves in—whether large- or small-scale—you'll be sure to find their blunders and triumphs intriguing, exciting—even frightening.

As the saying goes, be careful what you wish for....



Next issue: Meet the real-life winners of *THE GOOD GUYS* Casting Call Contest in a special, in-depth report!